

REMARKS

Claims 1-100 have been canceled, and claims 101-120 have been added.

Petition for Extension of Time

A petition for a 3-month extension of time is submitted with this response along with a credit card payment form for the required fee.

Request for Continued Examination

A Request for Continued Examination is submitted with this response along with a credit card payment form for the required fee.

Deposit Account Authorization

Applicants believe that no additional fees are necessary at this time. However, in the event additional fees are required, Applicants authorize the Commissioner to take any necessary fees, including those under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, from deposit account 50-0913.

A Brief Review of One Embodiment of Applicants' Invention

In one embodiment of Applicants' invention, a table game system is provided that allows a player to place a side wager in conjunction with a primary game. The use of a video display, such as an LCD screen, may allow for dynamic side wager presentations to be presented to the player, increasing player interest and therefore encouraging players to play longer and generating more revenue for the gaming establishment. *See* pages 5, 7, and 45.

Applicants teach that the video display can be used for a variety of purposes. A tuner and video controller may receive a variety of remotely generated independent video content sources that are displayed on the video display. For example, the video display may present sporting, news, or other video entertainment, text, or banners. *See* page 44. The video content source may be sources such as a VCR, television, cable video source, DVD, or a hard disk drive. *See, e.g.,* page 32. The video content may be generated by sources that are independent of the table game or the table equipment. For example, a live sporting event may be down loaded using a satellite link. This video content is generated from sources that are completely separate and independent from the table game apparatus.

When used as part of the side wager game, the video display may display sporting events related to the side wager game. For example, Applicants disclose viewing a horse race on the video display. A moveable player input device mounted on the table game allows for a player to choose from several game options, *See* pages 44-45.

New Claims

New claims have been added by this response. Independent claims 101 and 112 recite subject matter that is found throughout the specification, particularly in Figures 1-3 and pages 11-14 of the specification. Additional subject matter claimed in the dependent claims can be found throughout the specification.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office has rejected claims 80-84, 86-91 and 93-95 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,165,069 issued to Sines (hereinafter “Sines”) in view of U.S. patent number 5,770,533 issued to Franchi (hereinafter “Franchi”), U.S. patent number 5,259,613 issued to Marnell, II (hereinafter “Marnell”) and U.S. patent number 6,517,073 issued to Vancura (hereinafter “Vancura”). Claims 85 and 92 were rejected as being unpatentable over Sines, Marnell, Franchi and Vancura as applied to claim 80 and further in view of U.S. patent number 6,848,994 issued to Knust et al. (hereinafter “Kunst”).

To the extent that these rejections or references are considered in view of the new claims, applicants offer the following remarks:

Sines purports to disclose an “Automated system for playing live casino table games having tabletop changeable playing card displays and monitoring security features”. Vancura purports to disclose a “Betting bystander method and apparatus”. Franchi purports to disclose an “Open architecture casino operating system”. Marnell allegedly discloses a “Casino Entertainment System”.

The cited references do not disclose many of the features of the present invention as currently claimed. For example, none of the references teach presenting both entertainment presentations and bonus game presentations on a table display device. Furthermore, none of the references disclose a table management system that allows a system operator to schedule presentations to be displayed on the table display device.

The dependent claims recite additional patentable features and are allowable with the independent claims.

The cited references do not, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all elements of Applicants' claims. Therefore, they do not render Applicants' claims obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Office to withdraw the §103(a) rejection.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, the Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the application or amendment, the Examiner is encouraged to call the Applicants' attorney at (775) 826-6160.

Respectfully Submitted,

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